

For the past five years, Sheri has been the Dean of Development at Fort Lewis College. After receiving her education, she joined the Fort Lewis College staff as a secretary for the sciences faculty. Her natural ability to lead and desire to succeed soon moved her up the ladder of advancement. Before becoming Dean, she served Fort Lewis College in the capacity of Director of Admissions.

Along with her duties at Fort Lewis, Sheri is also quite active in the community of Durango. She has served as president of the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence and has been a long time supporter and member of the La Plata County Historical Society and the Animas Museum. Sheri has worked diligently for the community of Durango and Fort Lewis College. Her contributions have been great in number. As she continues to serve as Dean of Development, I wish her the very best. Sheri is one of our own in western Colorado and she has made us all very proud.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER,
ROBERT C. BRANNON, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., a fallen firefighter from Bluefield, West Virginia, who passed away at the age of 43 after suffering a heart attack while battling a house fire.

Robert C. Brannon, Jr. lived his life with integrity, dignity and honor. He was a man known for his service to his family, his church, and his community. As an alumnus of West Virginia University and Bluefield State University, he was well-educated and well-rounded and used his education in business and engineering to help people in need. Mr. Brannon served as lieutenant and fire inspector for the Bluefield Fire Department.

Although Mr. Brannon's life was cut short, he lived it to the fullest. Before serving over 20 years with the Bluefield Fire Department he enjoyed growing up in Bluefield, West Virginia. As a boy, he played little league, wrote for his high school newspaper and was on his high school basketball team. As an adult, Robert C. Brannon, Jr. not only gained the technical knowledge to create and design web pages but also was skilled as an electrician, carpenter, stoneworker and painter.

Known by his friends and family as Bob, he was a loyal friend, husband and father. Bob, along with his wife Cindy, showed love and guidance to their two sons Jonathan and Jeffrey. He and his family were also active in Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House please join me in recognizing and honoring the life of service and dedication of Robert C. Brannon, Jr., and commemorate his sacrifice of service as a Bluefield firefighter.

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY OF MARY
LOUISE QUIGG CALDWELL
PLUMER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize one of my constituents and very dear friends, Mary Louise Quigg Caldwell Plumer, of Miami, Florida, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on October 21, 2000.

Mary was born October 21, 1920 in Live Oak, Florida. Her parents moved to Miami when she was 6 years of age, where she was educated and graduated from Ponce de Leon High School in 1938. She served as editor of the school newspaper and was awarded the Woman's Club Cup as the "Most Outstanding Girl." Mary continued her education at the Florida State College for Women (FSCW), becoming a member of the Sophomore Council, the Cotillion Club and the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She graduated from FSCW in 1940 and transferred to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where she was awarded the Valkyrie Cup as the Most Outstanding Coed of the University, graduating in 1942.

Moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1942, she worked as the publicity director for radio station WSB. She returned to Miami and contributed to the War effort by working for the Red Cross as staff assistant to the Army Air Corps Redistribution Unit in Miami Beach, where she met her husband to be, Naval Lt. Commander Richard B. Plumer. He was graduated from Miami High School, Philips Exeter Academy and Princeton University (summa cum laude).

Mary raised four children (Richard, Penny, Christopher and Patience) and became actively involved in many worthwhile community projects. Among her accomplishments, she brilliantly led a committee to build the All Faith Chapel at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1973, five years after her daughter, Penny, died there. She has had articles published in The Miami Herald and Reader's Digest. She was awarded the M.O.M. Cup in 2000 as the Most Outstanding Mother. She also earned a prestigious reference in Who's Who of American Women.

Mary's gracious manner and warm spirit has won the hearts of the people of Miami. She is admired and respected for her compassion and generosity to anyone who is fortunate to meet her. It is my sincere pleasure and great honor to join Mary's family and friends in wishing her a wonderful celebration and many more happy and healthy birthdays.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM H. AVERY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my congratulations to the many tributes recently given to the Honorable William H. Avery, a former member of this House and a former governor of the state of Kansas.

On September 29, the post office in Wakefield, Kansas, the hometown of Bill Avery, was renamed in his honor, and the town honored their native son by proclaiming the event the "William H. Avery Day."

I had the pleasure of working with Bill Avery at the Department of the Interior in the early 1970's after his distinguished 10-year career in Congress and as the 37th governor of Kansas. After receiving a degree from the University of Kansas in 1934, he went back to his hometown to work the family farm. He started his public service career on the local school board in his hometown, and from there was elected to the Kansas State House of Representatives before moving on to Congress and the Kansas statehouse.

Bill Avery is a man of honor and integrity who has devoted his life to serving the public. He continues to reside in Wakefield today, and it's a fitting tribute to this fine gentleman that the people of his hometown have recognized his service to their community by renaming their post office in his honor. I join in saluting The Honorable William H. Avery.

HONORING MILES KARA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Miles Kara of Grand Junction, Colorado. Miles recently passed away in his home at the age of 84. Miles lived a life full of love and happiness and his legacy will long endure. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this immense loss, I would like to take this time to pay tribute to a truly compassionate and wonderful human being.

Miles was born and raised on the western slope of Colorado, and would eventually raise his children there as well. Graduating from Fruitvale High School and Grand Junction Junior College, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado in 1937. Upon graduation, he taught at Appleton High School for a few years and then met his patriotic duty by serving his country in the United States Air Force during WWII. After returning a proud veteran, he enrolled in Westminster Law School, graduating with a law degree in 1948.

His educational background easily prepared Miles for the many career choices he would make during his service to the people of the Grand Valley. After moving back to his childhood home, Miles practiced law for a number of years before working with a number of different organizations, all serving the Grand Junction community admirably. He began his service to his community as Mesa County Judge and moved on to work for US Bank as Senior Vice President and a Trust Officer. But Miles is best known for his work in education, where he served as President of the District 51 Board of Education and as Executive Director the Mesa State College Foundation.

Miles worked hard to ensure that Grand Valley's youth were receiving the best education possible. His devotion to his community was

not only demonstrated by his work in education but also as a dedicated 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. For Miles helping others was second nature. In a recent article in The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel by Rachel Sauer, his daughter Nancy best summed up her father in her own words: "you always love your family and take care of them first thing. And that people in trouble who need a hand should have one. If you could help someone you should help them. It's your responsibility as a human being."

Miles lived his entire life devoted to his family but always made time for others. It didn't matter the time of day; he was always there to lend a helping hand. Miles showed his love for his family and his fellow humans in his every action. His commitment to public service has changed the lives of many. Miles was a loving and cherished member of our community and he will be greatly missed.

Although he may be gone his memory will live on within the hearts of all that knew him. Clearly, America is better off for having known Miles Kara.

HONORING THE NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nashville Symphony on the occasion of its historic first performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In particular, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of Executive Director Alan D. Valentine and his staff, conductor Kenneth Schermerhorn, Associate Conductor Karen Lynne Deal, and the Board of Directors including Symphony Campaign 2000 Chairman Martha Ingram. Although every person involved played a role in this effort, these individuals in particular gave of their time and energy to ensure the symphony would have the opportunity to shine in the national spotlight.

On September 25th the Nashville Symphony culminated an East Coast tour by performing for the first time at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Well over a thousand Middle Tennesseans attended the sold-out show including Mayor Bill Purcell, my wife Mary, and me. The stunning performance garnered rave reviews from the New York Times and the Tennessean proving to the nation what Nashville has known for years about the symphony's excellence in artistry and skill.

Now in its 55th season, the Nashville Symphony has entertained and educated thousands of individuals at performances across the nation. At home, the symphony has earned the respect of our community through years of perseverance through its varied history. With the assistance and commitment of individuals like Martha Ingram, the Nashville Symphony has graciously survived, and today boasts a roster of eighty-seven contracted musicians. In fact the group just released the new

compact discs, "Howard Hanson: Orchestral Works Volume I," and "Charles Ives: Symphony No. 2," on the Naxos label to coincide with their Carnegie Hall debut.

The symphony is the largest performing arts organization in Tennessee, and regularly partners with the community and area schools to educate the public about symphonic music and classical music. Studies have shown that exposing children to music at a young age increases their ability to learn and retain information. In fact, my two daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel began playing the violin at the age of five. Both have benefited tremendously from their exposure to symphonic and classical music.

In the same way, each young person should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the arts. The symphony plays a vital role in educating young people in our area by offering a number of educational opportunities such as Ensembles in the Schools; Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest; String and Band Bash; AmSouth Classroom Classics; and Young People's Concerts at War Memorial Auditorium. The symphony reaches 80,000 children in Middle Tennessee each year. This commitment to exposing future generations to the arts is to be commended.

The history of the symphony dates back to 1920 when a group of Nashville musicians formed the "Symphony Society" with its own orchestra and roster. Unfortunately that group fell to the wayside during the Great Depression. However, the cause was taken up again after World War II, when Nashville native and war veteran Walter Sharp returned home from the war on a mission to form a symphony orchestra in his hometown. Sharp succeeded and gained the support of the community when he founded the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

Today the Nashville Symphony performs more than 200 shows per year. Many of these performances are in conjunction with other area arts organizations such as Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Nashville Institute for the Arts, and Tennessee Performing Arts Center. In addition the symphony has performed with Luciano Pavarotti, Charlotte Church, Amy Grant, Vince Gill, and many other internationally renowned artists.

With an exceptional donor base and strong community support, the Nashville Symphony stands on a strong foundation to entertain and enlighten new generations in the 21st Century and beyond.

"A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE ARMSTEAD, TOP SENIOR VOLUNTEER"

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, senior citizens across the country are setting an example for all of us of the value and virtue of volunteerism, but Ernie Armstead of San Bernardino is a standout even among these hard-working civic champions. The senior volunteers and those who work with them in San Bernardino County, who know the hard work

of Ernie Armstead, were delighted this year when he was one of five recipients of the prestigious National Community Spirit Award from the American Association of Retired Persons.

Mr. Armstead, who is retired from the Air Force and the U.S. Postal Service, has for the past six years been organizing programs to educate the senior population about everything from Medicare to legislative issues to how to get help with tax preparation. He now serves as community relations coordinator for 36 area AARP chapters, and has been a member of the County Senior Citizens Affairs Commission since 1995. He is chairman of the commission's Senior Housing Subcommittee, and as liaison between the commission and AARP.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Armstead created an innovative program in my hometown of Redlands known as Dinner and Dialogue, which brings together people in their 50s and 60s for a meal and discussion of issues that concern them. The popular dinners have brought in speakers from around the county to discuss senior programs and answer questions. It is one of many examples of opportunities Mr. Armstead seeks for seniors to create and expand networks across political, ethnic and age groups.

Mr. Speaker, all of the people of San Bernardino County benefit from the hard work by exemplary senior volunteers like Ernie Annstead. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on being honored with the National Community Spirit Award, and wish him well in his continuing volunteer work in our county.

A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sing praise for Saint Joseph's Parish in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. The church has been the spiritual beacon of a fine neighborhood and, indeed, of the entire community.

Since the middle of the 19th Century, the church has stood as the centerpiece of the city's Northeast Side, drawing family and friends into the light of Christian love and charity.

The congregation's commitment to the community remains as strong today as it was when Father Kindekens first suggested in the late 1840s that Catholic settlers build a church in which he and visiting priests could minister to the needs of parishioners. By 1850, work began on the first Catholic church in the Saginaw Valley—Saint Joseph's.

In the beginning, just 20 families formed the foundation of the church. Six years later, the burgeoning parish counted about 2,000 members on its rolls and by 1868 that number had more than tripled. As the years went by, the church expanded to include additional buildings and educational facilities.